

Random Notes

In the spring of 1910, the first few bushels of grain were sown in the first few scant acres brought under the plow in the Delia and Craigmyle districts. That was forty years ago, and from that year until the present an ever recurring topic of conversation among both towns and country residents of the district, has been the dryness of the weather.

Several years ago, Alexander Calhoun, an observant naturalist who had made a tour in the district, remarked to a farmer that he found it hard to understand why agriculturists should decide to settle in a country in which cactus grew abundantly—"a sure sign of aridity." The answer to that was, of course, that a large proportion of the first settlers were not agriculturists, and that those who did qualify under that designation were attracted there on various grounds; some because of cheap land and others—from across the river making the "hickies" money—because of the prospect of ploughing a mile "with nothing to stop a feller."

Occasionally, the presence of rocks had escaped observation!

But we're talking of dry weather, and it is an agreed fact among old-timers that the pattern of raindrops on the roof of the shack would awaken a man from the soundest slumber. In those early days, it took a little time for the newcomers to realize they were living in a very different part of Alberta, and that from which they had originated. Some were more alive to the implications involved than others, and notable among these was old Mr. Wm. Bickell who, during his second summer of residence here, announced his conclusion that he had "settled in a semi-arid country."

Furthermore, someone delving into the history of the Northwest Territories, had discovered that the settlers had dumped themselves right down in the "Fallies" Triangle. This looked serious: since Palliser, a British officer, explorer and surveyor, had definitely established the fact that the Triangle was a drought area, entirely unfitted for farming. In addition, the verdict of Palliser was not to be treated lightly, for he was distinguished in other fields, being the inventor of the first armour plating shell which, in the vanguard of artillery experts, was known as the Palliser shell.

But to return to Mr. Bickell, a man who was respected and well liked among his fellow homesteaders. Far beyond the age when the strong right arm could carve out a career from the toughest circumstances, and in spite of the fact that his financial resources forbade any adventure into hired labour, this upstanding, little figure originating from the Red Deer Valley in Minnesota, was invariably kept a stiff upper lip, and found his niche in a place his undoubted talents warranted. Secretary to the newly-formed Local Improvement District and to one or more school districts in process of formation, agent for the Credit Farmers Union organization, and various other undertakings became a part of his industry. His house on the homestead was warm to all, for he was backed up by an admirable wife and a visit there on a quiet Sunday afternoon or on a summer evening was a pleasant interlude in a hard struggle.

Mr. Bickell's early conclusion has been borne out by circumstances. The years of sufficient rain ensured prolific crops can be counted on the fingers of one hand—1915-1923, 1932.

Yet, glancing back over the forty years, somehow there has never been a total crop failure here. A matter of fact is that well known to agronomists that wheat requires the least moisture of any cereal grain; something (Continued on next column)

that old William Cobbett told the world one hundred and thirty years ago. And—make no doubt of it—in spite of the Palmer Triangle, it is wheat that accounts for the present prosperity of the residents of the Delia and Craigmyle districts.

Women's Missionary Society

The May meeting of the United Church W.M.S. was held on the p.m. of May 15th in the Church Hall. Mrs. I. Pittsman, Pres. was in the chair, the opening hymn being 669, with Mrs. Davidge presiding at the organ.

Mrs. G. Lowe, associate members' secretary, had charge of the devotional, reading the Scripture lesson from John 14:1-12, and offering prayer.

There were 11 members and one visitor present, and the roll call was answered by verses recited to the hymn, "The Bible." The reports of the secretaries were then called for, and reported upon by Mrs. E. Davidge on Christian and Christian Citizenship. Mrs. Thompson on Christian Stewardship, and also on Literature and Mrs. Peters on Supplies. The supplies for the mission were reported upon by Mrs. W.M.S. ladies, and donation of knitting a pair of bed socks by Mrs. W. Hall.

Mrs. Pittsman reported upon a sponsor a box of used, clean clothing to be sent to Korea. All the men's, women's and children's clothing are acceptable except high heeled shoes and hats. If any of our district are interested in getting rid of good used clothing during your Spring cleaning, kindly bring them to the Delia Co-op Store (for your convenience). Our well known missionary, Elda Daniels, who is now in Korea, informs us they can make good use of used clothing for refugees from North or Communist Korea, who are coming into free Southern Korea daily.

Mrs. Pittsman read two articles, one entitled "Women's Work in the Churches," by Mrs. David Davison; and another on "Women's Work Amongst the Immigrants at the Ports of Entry." These were instructive and interesting.

The closing hymn was 849, and after benediction Mrs. G. Lowe served a very enjoyable lunch at the half hour around the tea cups.—Sec.

Wool Prices At Record Levels

The recent news of "Wool News" reports that producers of wool enter the 1950 season with prices at record levels in all world producing countries and on world markets.

Men of experience in world economy are pointing out that wool is always closely linked to the general economy. The inference is that when the world's economy shows a substantial recession, the prospects are that wool cannot fail to continue on favorable levels.

Furthermore, it must be noted that because of the high price that has prevailed, stocks of wool in Great Britain and other major manufacturing countries are low and that these countries, as a result, will be in a position to begin to make their textile mills running.

"In spite of this hopeful outlook, results of those who produce wool in Great Britain and other major manufacturing countries are low and that these countries, as a result, will be in a position to begin to make their textile mills running. "Regardless of what may develop in the countries of heavy wool production, however, there still is little danger of an over-supply of the product that will make sheep unprofitable in Canada, as compared with return on other means of livestock, and on the sound basis of investment and costs for food, feed, and electric."

Sunbeam News

Mrs. Alfred McKee and Ray Nelson spent last Sunday in Janisland.

Mrs. Harold Brown, accompanied by her daughter Mary and son Bruce, from Kelowna, spent last week at the home of her parents, Mr. and Mrs. Arthur Pontifex.

Billy Cooper returned to Edmonton Monday, after spending the past couple of weeks with his parents, Mr. and Mrs. Alex Cooper.

Calgary visited last week include Mr. and Mrs. Alex Nelson, Mrs. D. G. Watters, Mrs. Alex Dick, Ray Nelson and Carol Dick.

Tommy Hadland from Kindersley, Sask., was a business visitor here last week.

Mr. and Mrs. D. J. Watters, from Delia, spent last Sunday at the Dick home.

Mr. E. H. Butterfield, from Calgary, was a visitor at the Nelson home on Monday last.

Marlin Joslin is a patient in the Drumheller hospital.

Douglas Hunter and his brother Kenneth, from Acmec, spent last week at the home of Mr. and Mrs. John Hunter.

Mrs. Len Peterson and daughter Donna, from Nelson, B.C., arrived for her sister's wedding (Leila Robinson) last Sunday.

Mr. and Mrs. John Chambers, and family, from Rowley, were guests at the home of Mr. and Mrs. F. J. Robinson on Saturday last.

Mr. and Mrs. Andrew Roglund, and three daughters, motored to Lundbreck last week to visit with relatives.

Mrs. George Chambers, accompanied by her sons, Alvin and Terence, motored out last week end to renew acquaintances.

E. H. Butterfield, from Calgary, was a visitor at the Nelson home last Tuesday.

Mr. and Mrs. Bill Wayne and family, from Acmec; and Arthur Hunter, were Sunday guests at the Hunter home.

Mrs. Christina Smith and daughter Mabel, from Drumheller, spent Sunday last at the home of Mr. and Mrs. Harold Nelson.

Mr. and Mrs. Herman McElroy from Scollard, were visitors at the De Mott home last Sunday.

Mr. Arthur Pontifex and son Alfred, spent a few days in Calgary the forepart of the week.

Mr. and Mrs. Allan Dodge, from Gids, motored down and spent Sunday at the home of Mr. and Mrs. Harold Nelson.

Billy Cooper, from Edmonton, had spent the past two weeks visiting with his parents, Mr. and Mrs. Alex Cooper.

Ray Nelson spent Wednesday in Calgary at the home of Mr. and Mrs. John Smith.

Tommy Hadland from Kindersley, Sask., was a visitor at the Nelson home last Monday.

Seeding is practically 100 per cent completed in the district.

Apple Export Subsidy

On March 21st, the United States Department of Agriculture announced that the apple export subsidy program ended to end April 1st, was to be extended to May 1st. The department reported that 1.8 million bushels of fruit had been exported or declared for export at March 1 under the program. This quantity is less than one per cent of the 1949 crop.

It's the division between parents that add up to problem children.

Pianist-Composer

Lethbridge Experimental Station

Weekly Letter

Room after its introduction from Sweden in 1911, Victory became one of the most popular oat varieties in southern Alberta. Its high yield and wide adaptability made it acceptable to farmers over a wide area. Victory is still grown extensively over most of Alberta, but is gradually being replaced by new varieties. Although high in yield and producing an excellent sample of high bushel weight, the variety is rather late to maturity, inclined to lodge under moist conditions, and is susceptible to rust and smut. Victory is recommended for production by the Varietal Zonation Committee in all zones of Alberta.

Eagle is another variety introduced from Sweden which has proven to be superior in yield to Victory in parts of central Alberta. Eagle is similar to Victory in many respects, but is a little earlier, shorter, and more resistant to lodging. Eagle is recommended for production in Zones II and III of Alberta.

Ajox is a relatively new variety which has outyielded Victory in tests in parts of southern Alberta. Ajox is earlier than Victory and is more resistant to lodging. It is also moderately resistant to stem rust. The kernels of Ajox are rather small and thin, with the result that the variety is often thought to be inferior to Victory for feed. However the kernels of Ajox have a high oil, and the varieties are usually about equal in bulk content when grown under the same conditions. Chemical analyses of samples of both varieties have shown Ajox to be equal to Victory in protein content and fibre content. Ajox, because of its earliness, will usually yield more than Victory in areas subject to low rainfall during the summer months. Ajox is recommended for production in Zones I, II and III of Alberta.

Larain is a recently developed variety which, because of its earliness, is grown to some extent in those parts of Alberta where early fall frosts are common. The seed of Larain is low in percentage bulk, and chemical analyses have found it to be lower in fibre and viscosity higher in protein than seed of Victory. Larain has usually been lower in yield than Victory in tests conducted in southern Alberta. It is susceptible to the rust and smut, and is only recommended for production in Zones III and IV.

Tetanus Tonic

Tetanus is not a serious cause of death in Canada, but its prevention is considered worthwhile by medical authorities. Tetanus—commonly known as lockjaw—is preventable, medical science having produced a tetanus toxoid which is just as effective as diphtheria toxoid.

Funeral services were held in Delia United Church on Saturday, May 13th, Rev. E. Davidge officiating. Mrs. Davidge presided at the altar, and the Paul Koberly and Mrs. Austin Whitman sang a duet, "In the Garden."

Interment took place in Delia cemetery.

Palmerbearers—Sam Vivien: Fred Gowden, Dan Laverty, A. C. McConnell, V. Howard, and E. Howard.

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Oat Varieties

Lethbridge Experimental Station

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MARKETING SERVICE, DEPARTMENT OF AGRICULTURE, OTTAWA

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Manitoba Floods
Worst In
History

WORLD NEWS IN PICTURES

Woman Technical
Advisor For
Farm Organization

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—Central Press Canadian.

EVERYTHING BUT THE ATOM BOMB—President Truman is shown as he was brought to his feet in a quaking wooden stand at Eglin Field, Fla., during the bomb blasts that punctuated defense demonstration by the air force. During one of the most astonishing exhibitions of U.S. air power ever staged, the "front line" air force overpowered jet planes with features few military men have ever seen. It dropped every weapon it has, including only the A-bomb, on the part of the 800-square mile area where new aerial weapons are tested.



MINER HONORED FOR HONESTY—The Case of the Honest Miner has a happy ending, as E.C.A. Administrator Paul Hoffman (right), presents a bicycle to Giuseppe Bertolotto of Padua, Italy. Bertolotto, formerly, found a wallet containing \$35 in a shipment of coal from the U.S. to Italy. The wallet, belonging to Frank Phillips (left), a miner of Dante, West Virginia, was turned over to the local police who returned it to Phillips. Hoffman heard about the incident, arranged a trip to New York for Bertolotto where he received the bicycle which he will use going to and from work. He earns \$21 a month.—Central Press Canadian.



—Central Press Canadian.
PRIME MINISTER WELCOMED TO SARAJEVO—Touing Eastern Croatia, Prime Minister and Mrs. St. Laurent stop to study a photo of an old lady in Sarajevo. The city gave the prime minister a hearty welcome.



—Central Press Canadian.
BERLIN FIVE YEARS AFTER WAR'S END—Five years after the death of Adolf Hitler—the man who would rule the world—his "thousand-year Reich" remains a shattered sea of rubble. This panoramic view from an elevation shows one of the battered sectors of Berlin.



IT'S NOT WHAT IT SEEMS TO BE—When this photograph was mapped, it appeared as if the crew of one of the craft in the cadet dinghy class was taking a shaking during the annual regatta at Melbourne, Australia. But it was just an optical illusion produced as the boat heeled in a trough between the waves of a rough sea.—Central Press Canadian.



RUSSIANS AT WORK—Only a few miles from the nearest United States territory in the Aleutian Islands, Soviet citizens dress workmen killed in a hunt along the shores of Gulf of Anadyr in Siberia. Judging by their industry here, they are too busy to be concerned about the political possibilities of their geographical position.—Central Press Canadian.



THEY'RE MAKING BIGGER WHEELS THESE DAYS—One of the world's largest "wheels" is given Solihull toolsheds by London map-makers before shipment to the Massachusetts Institute of Technology. The globe is six feet in diameter, weighs 550 pounds and is turned by a motor at one-and-a-half revolutions a minute.—Central Press Canadian.



HARD HIT BY DOLLAR DEVALUATIONS—Pulped cotton in the Marshalls have also been hard hit by dollar devaluations and loss of markets. In this picture an ox team in Stone, New York's Queens County is loaded with pulped cotton for paper manufacturers.



SCIENTIFIC AND TECHNICAL ADVISOR—Joan Stevens is the only woman in Canada to hold a position as scientific and technical advisor in a large farm organization. The Surrey Farmers' Co-operative, wanted a university graduate, but were unimpressed when the most suitable candidate was the only woman in the application. Nevertheless Joan got the job and the farmers have been everything but sorry since. The ladies her work very efficiently and is well liked by the farmers she helps. She is shown above discussing chicks with Lawrence Page, of Cloverdale, B.C. Right, Joan and G. Franks of the Surrey Centre, have something to say about pigs.



FAR SOUTHERN FARMER—Mr. Leon Jacques, of St. Joseph de Beauséjour, Que., is proving that work on farm land is still profitable in the form of a maple sugar bush. Mr. Jacques now has a sugar bush consisting of 2,500 hand-planted maples varying in age from a few years to about 40 years old. The bush has been a long range plan, set up by a far sighted farmer, that up to now has proved successful and should be even more so in the future. The photo at top shows his sugar house which is large enough to handle the growing sap production of his bush. At bottom, the back view of the sugar house shows the down in which the sap is collected and how it is impaled by gravity into the storage tanks.



FARM WIFE'S FRIDE—A speaking team pecked down McElroy's Lake of the River Black Creek at Peabody, Ont. The showman and actor orchard are Mrs. Stickle's pet and joy. Only woman president of the Women's Fruit Growers' Association and first woman graduate of O.A.C. Mrs. Stickle knows the fruit industry and farming generally as well as any farm wife in Canada. She was one of the first women to handle the police department in this orchard. The farm has been in the Stickle family 117 years.



ONE OF MANITOBA'S WORST FLOODS—This is what part of Winnipeg looked like from the air during the recent flood that caused millions of dollars of damage.—Central Press Canadian.



ACCEPTABLE OFF—A 1956 Italian girl is shown offering a tiny white lamb as a gift to Pope Pius XII, at St. Peter's church in Rome. The business accepted the girl, making one of his daily audiences in the basilica at St. Peter's.



CANADIANS EN ROUTE TO ROME—Passing through London on their way to Rome, are some of the one hundred Holy Year Catholic pilgrims from Canada. They arrived at Liverpool on the Empress of France.—Central Press Canadian.

